

Message Text

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TO ALEAP

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 009130

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 14 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

IN NOTE TO "GUARANTORS" OF VN C-F, US PROTESTS NVN'S
"GRAVE VIOLATION" IN RESUMING WARFARE IN SVN; SAYS DRV
MUST ACCEPT FULL CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTION (CSM).
NOTE SAID NVN HAD ILLEGALLY INFILTRATED OVER 160,000
UNCLASSIFIED

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TROOPS AND OVER 400 ARMOURED VEHICLES INTO SVN SINCE
C-F, HAD EXPANDED ARMAMENT STOCKPILES AND HAD IMPROVED
MIL LOGISTICS SYSTEM. ALSO ACCUSED NVN AND VC OF REFUSING
TO DEPLOY C-F TEAMS, NOT PAYING THEIR SHARE OF ICCS

BUDGET AND FAILING TO HONOR COMMITMENT TO DETERMINE STATUS OF MIAS. THIS WAS THIRD US PROTEST (AP, CHITRIB). NYT CARRIES FULL TEXT OF US NOTE. NOTE CALLS UPON ADDRESSEES TO URGE DRV TO HALT MIL OFFENSIVE AND JOIN RVN IN REESTABLISHING STABILITY AND SEEKING POLITICAL SOLUTION.

SUN'S MILLS REPORTS US OFFICIALS REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT "CONSEQUENCES" MENTIONED IN NOTE MIGHT BE. QUOTES ANDERSON THAT "OBVIOUSLY" US WOULD CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY LEGISLATION THAT BARS MIL ACTION IN INDOCHINA. COMMENTS THAT THIS LEAVES OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT DEPT

MIGHT SEEK CHANGES IN THE RESTRICTIONS, BUT HILL REACTION TO IDEA OF NEW DIRECT INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN STRONGLY NEGATIVE. NOTE COULD BE PRELUDE TO ADMIN LOBBYING EFFORT FOR MORE MIL AID FOR SVN AND GKR IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED COMMUNIST ATTACKS. SAYS "SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS" THINK THEY SENSE SOME SOFTENING OF ATTITUDES IN CONGRESS BECAUSE OF INCREASED COMMUNIST ATTACKS. NOTES ADMIN IS EXPECTED TO ASK FOR RESTORATION OF 300 MILLION DOLS FOR SVN, AND DOUBLING OF APPROPRIATION FOR CAMBODIA.

NYDN'S CARTER FINDS TOUGH LANGUAGE IN NOTE REMINISCENT OF US WARNINGS IN THE DAYS OF OUR COMBAT INVOLVEMENT IN VN. QUOTES OFFICIALS THAT DESPITE STRONG WORDING, NOTE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS THREAT OF US MIL ACTION; CITES STATE'S ANDERSON'S REFERENCE TO CHURCH-CASE AMENDMENT.

WP'S BERGER (ALSO IN GLOBE) REVIEWS NOTE; QUOTES US OFFICIALS THAT FIGHTING IS MORE SERIOUS THAN IN DRY SEASON LAST YEAR, WITH NVA LOOKING FOR REGIONAL WEAK POINTS TO ATTACK TO UNDERMINE MORALE AND DISRUPT ECONOMY. NOTES THAT US ANALYSTS DO NOT BELIEVE NVN AIMS TO TAKE OVER ALL SVN BY FORCE, HOPES TO DESTABILIZE GVN SO SEVERELY THAT THIEU WOULD BE PUSHED OUT. OFFICIALS PRIVATELY CONCEDE THAT WHILE NVN UNCLASSIFIED

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VIOLATIONS ARE MORE FLAGRANT THAN BEFORE, ADMIN ALSO IS USING CURRENT ATTACKS TO SUPPORT ITS CASE FOR INCREASED AID. NOTE CONTAINS IMPLICIT APPEAL TO USSR AND PRC TO CUT ARMS DELIVERIES TO HANOI. SAYS A "REPORT FROM SAIGON" CONFIRMED THAT 65,000 NVA TROOPS INFILTRATED THIS YEAR BUT THAT WAS SAID TO BE SAME NUMBER THAT RETURNED NORTH OR WERE KILLED, AND COMMUNIST EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN REPLACED ON ABOUT ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS AS PERMITTED BY C-F. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, POINT TO A BUILDUP.

GWERTZMAN (NYT) BELIEVES THAT WITH RELEASE OF "TOUGHLY WORDED" NOTE, US SEEMED TO BE SEEKING TO BOLSTER ITS

CONTENTION THAT CONGRESS SHOULD INCREASE AID TO SVN. ADMIN APPEARED DETERMINED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WOULD NOT LET GVN DOWN AND TO KEEP HANOI WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE US RESPONSES. NOTES THAT DOD SAID CARRIER MIDWAY LEFT JAPAN WITH TWO DESTROYERS AND GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE, BUT WOULD NOT SAY WHERE SHIPS WERE HEADED. QUOTES SUGGESTION OF SOME PENTAGON OFFICIALS THAT MIDWAY HAD NO SPECIFIC ORDERS TO HEAD FOR VN, BUT ADMIN WANTED TO KEEP OPTION OPEN IN CASE OF HUGE NVA OFFENSIVE. MOST WESTERN OBSERVERS IN SAIGON HAVE DETECTED LITTLE DESIRE ON EITHER SIDE TO ABIDE BY C-F. REVIEWS RECENT NVA

MIL ACTIVITY AND CONTENTS OF NOTE. SAYS NVN HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF CONTINUED US MIL AND ECON SUPPORT OF GVN, AND IN RECENT DAYS HAS ACCUSED US OF VIOLATING C-F BY FLYING RECON MISSIONS OVER NORTH. SUCH FLIGHTS WERE BANNED BY ACCORD, BUT WERE RESUMED IN APRIL, 1973, IN REPLY TO ALLEGED NVN VIOLATIONS.

UPI FROM SAIGON (GLOBE 1/13) QUOTES HIGH-RANKING US SOURCE THAT US AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MAKING REGULAR RECON FLIGHTS OVER NVN IN VIOLATION OF C-F, AND OVER VC AREAS IN SVN; EMBASSY SAYS "NONSENSE." SOURCE ADDED THAT WARSHIPS CONDUCTED REGULAR FORAYS INTO SVN WATERS, AND PURPOSE OF BOTH ACTIONS IS TO SERVE NOTICE ON NVN AND VC THAT US CONTINUES SUPPORT GVN. UPI NOTES THAT RECON FLIGHTS OVER DRV VIOLATE C-F. SOURCE ADDED THAT FLIGHTS STOPPED AFTER C-F BUT WERE RESUMED UNCLASSIFIED

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LAST WINTER WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT NVA WAS STEPPING UP WAR' AND THAT SR-71S HAVE MADE REGULAR FLIGHTS OVER DRV WHILE PILOTLESS DRONES COVER VC AREAS JUST BELOW DMZ.

WSJ QUOTES OPPOSITION POLITICIANS IN SAIGON THAT THIEU SIGNED C-F AFTER RECEIVING SEVEN MILLION DOL BRIBE, AND STATE DEPT'S CHARACTERIZATION OF STORY AS "PURE NONSENSE." BASED ON WIRE SERVICE STORIES, PHINQ REVIEWS ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBE TO THIEU AND STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S DENIAL OF CHARGE. QUOTES DOCUMENT OBTAINED BY UPI THAT SAYS US GENERAL BROUGHT MONEY AFTER THIEU BALKED AT ACCEPTING C-F, AND CASH WAS DEPOSITED WITH SWISS BANKING CORP.

OPPOSITION GROUPS ASKED SVN SUPREME COURT TO PROSECUTE THIEU'S WIFE ON CHARGE THAT SHE BOUGHT STATE-OWNED LAND IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE FOR LOW PRICE IN 1972. PM KHIEM LATER DECREED SALE PERMISSIBLE, BUT OPPOSITION SAID CONSTITUTION BARS SPOUSES OF OFFICIALS FROM INVOLVEMENT IN GOVT BIDS OR CONTRACTS (CHITRIB).

GVN SECOND CORPS HQ SAYS VNAF WRECKED 400-TRUCK NVA

CONVOY CARRYING TROOPS AND SUPPLIES FOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST KONTUM WITH OVER 200 TRUCKS DESTROYED AND 170 NVA KILLED. CONVOY CAME THROUGH LAOS AND WAS SIX MILES FROM KONTUM WHEN ATTACKED (WP, CSM; AP, SUN; CHITRIB). NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON REPORTS ATTACK ON CONVOY, NOTES THAT ACTION COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED BY INDEPENDENT SOURCES. QUOTES FOREIGN MIL OBSERVER THAT IT SOUNDS "EXTRAORDINARY" SINCE NVA CONVOYS SELDOM MOVE IN GREAT NUMBERS, PARTICULARLY NOT NEAR SENSITIVE MIL TARGET LIKE KONTUM; BUT "WELL-PLACED" STAFF OFFICER INSISTS REPORT

IS TRUE.

WARNER BROS IS PROCEEDING WITH PLANS FOR NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROVERSIAL DOCUMENTARY, "HEARTS AND MINDS." HEARING WILL BE HELD IN LA ON ROSTOW PETITION FOR PERMANENT RESTRAINING ORDER TO BAR USE OF INTERVIEW WITH HIM. MOVIE WAS SHOWN IN LA IN DECEMBER TO QUALIFY FOR ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION (NYT). UNCLASSIFIED

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WP'S MCCOMBS (LAT 1/11) FROM TAY NINH DESCRIBES CITY BRACED FOR COMMUNIST ASSAULT WITH GVN FORCES DIGGING IN AND MANY RESIDENTS FLEEING TO SAIGON. MIL ANALYSTS IN SAIGON THINK TAY NINH MAY BE NEXT MAJOR TARGET. QUOTES OBSERVERS IN SAIGON THAT LOSS OF TAY NINH WOULD BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY DEVASTATING BLOW TO GVN.

LAT'S MCARTHUR (1/12) SEES WAR AS SOMEHOW "TURNED AROUND" SINCE US LEFT, WITH NVA NOW HAVING EDGE WHILE AMMO USED BY ARVN IS BEING REPLACED ON A LESS THAN ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS. "NORTH VIETNAM HAS PLENTY AND SOUTH VIETNAM IS FEELING THE PINCH." BELIEVES THAT SHOULD HANOI FAIL THIS TIME, BLAMING US WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND THIS MAY BE GIVING IT PAUSE. WONDERS WHETHER USSR AND CHINA ARE URGING RESTRAINT BECAUSE OF HAK DIPLOMACY, NOTES THAT THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHERE MIL POWER RESTS IN NVN. BELIEVES SLOW UNFOLDING OF REGIONAL ATTACKS GIVES IMPRESSION THAT HANOI'S FINAL DECISION REMAINS IN ABEYANCE, BUT PORTENTS ARE OMINOUS. SEES HANOI ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKING MORE DRAMATIC AND SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES IN MONTHS AHEAD, SAYS COMMUNISTS HAVE PLANS TO TRY TERROR CAMPAIGN IN CITIES. SOME EXPERTS BELIEVE NVN WILL ATTEMPT ECON AND POLITICAL DAMAGE TO GVN INSTEAD OF ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE, AND THEN TRY AGAIN FOR NEW GAINS AT NEGOTIATING TABLE. CITES "STAGGERING" INVESTMENT IN MEN, MATERIAL AND ENERGY NVN HAS MADE IN SOUTH OVER PAST TWO YEARS. QUOTES "SOME EXPERTS" THAT HANOI CANNOT LONG SUSTAIN CURRENT WAR LEVEL AND SERIOUSLY UNDERTAKE NECESSARY RECONSTRUCTION, AND TIME FOR DECISION PROBABLY DRAWING CLOSE WITH SOME

PRESSURE IN NVN FOR BUTTER OVER GUNS.

STORIN DESCRIBES NEWS BRIEFINGS BY COMMUNISTS IN SAIGON. COMMENTS THAT SINCE C-F IS APPARENTLY ROUTINELY VIOLATED BY BOTH SIDES, LATEST BRIEFING WAS DEVOTED TO REPORTS OF MIL ACTIVITY. QUOTES PRG SPOKESMAN THAT HIGH NUMBER OF PENTAGON OFFICIALS RECENTLY VISITED SAIGON TO URGE GVN "TO STEP UP THE WAR." NOTES THAT GVN BLAMES ALL C-F VIOLATIONS ON COMMUNISTS, WHILE PRG DESCRIBES EACH UNCLASSIFIED

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BATTLE AS BEING INITIATED BY SVN TROOPS. GIVES EXAMPLE OF FLAMBOYANT LANGUAGE USED BY COMMUNIST BRIEFERS; NOTES THAT REPORTERS DOWNPLAY IMPORTANCE OF PRG SESSIONS AND QUOTES WIRE-SERVICE REPORTER THAT BRIEFINGS ARE "BORING... AND THEY NEVER TELL YOU ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT"(GLOBE 1/13).

KHMER OFFICERS SAY USAF CARGO PLANES WITH CIVILIAN PILOTS ARE BRINGING ARMS AND AMMO TO PP (UPI, NYDN; PHINQ). MIL SOURCES SAID GKR ASKED FOR AIRLIFT AFTER REBELS CUT MEKONG CONVOY ROUTE (CHITRIB). NEWSMEN OBSERVED SOME LANDINGS, THOUGH GKR AUTHORITIES STOPPED THEM FROM VISITING FIELD NEAR LANDING AREA, SAYING BAN WAS ON "ADVICE" OF US EMBASSY. RELIABLE US SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT EMBASSY HAD "SUGGESTED" TO KHMER NOT TO ALLOW REPORTERS TO TAKE PICTURES OR OBTAIN INFO ABOUT AIRLIFT (WP).

FANK FIGHTS REBELS ON WEST MEKONG BANK OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG WHILE ENEMY SHELLS TOWN, KILLING TEN CIVILIANS (AP, SUN). FIELD REPORTS SAY OVER 300 FANK REINFORCEMENTS FERRIED TO NEAK LUONG AREA. MIL SOURCES STATE GKR HOLDS GROUND ON BOTH SIDES OF MEKONG BUT ARE BOXED INTO SMALL STRIP OF LAND (WP). NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP QUOTES REFUGEES THAT NEAK LUONG IS UNDER STEADY FIRE AND SHORT OF FOOD, WITH THOUSANDS HUNGRY. REFUGEES CAME BY BOAT THROUGH HOSTILE FIRE. SAYS SITUATION SOUNDS SERIOUS BUT IS NOT YET DESPERATE, WITH REINFORCEMENTS HOLDING OFF ENEMY FOR NOW. REFUGEES SAY THEY ARE CONSCRIPTED AS SOON AS THEY ENTER NEAK LUONG, AND SENT TO PP FOR TRAINING, THOUGH ALLOWED TO BRING WIVES AND CHILDREN. SCHANBERG NOTES THAT SOME LOOKED UNHAPPY ABOUT BECOMING SOLDIERS AND GKR TOOK SPECIAL STEPS TO STOP THEM FROM DESERTING.

2. JAPAN

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO CITES MITI FORECAST THAT JAPAN TO DOUBLE EXPORT INCOME FROM ARABS TO 3.9 BILLION DOLS BY END OF JFY, BUT NOTES ARAB INVESTMENT IN JAPAN STILL INSIGNIFICANT. SAYS EXPORT GAINS ENCOURAGED BY GOJ "COOPERATION PROJECTS" ARRANGED BY SPECIAL ENVOYS LAST YEAR. UNCLASSIFIED

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WP CITES ADMIN SOURCE IN WASHINGTON THAT CARRIER
MIDWAY TO REMAIN IN NORTH PACIFIC, NOT GO TO VN
WATERS.

POOR SALES PROMPT MAZDA MOTORS OF AMERICA TO REORGANIZE
DISTRIBUTORSHIPS, GIVE EASTERN THIRD OF US TO C. ITOH
(WSJ, NYT).

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS RECESSION-HIT MAJOR
ELECTRIC ELECTRONIC FIRMS ABOUT TO GIVE 100,000 WORKERS
"TEMPORARY HOME LEAVE."

UPI (TOKYO) SAYS 15 FEET OF SNOW ON JAPAN SEA COAST
PARALYZE RAIL AND ROAD TRAFFIC IN WESTERN JAPAN (NYDN,
BALTO N-A).

WP'S OBERDORFER (LAT, JAN 11) REVIEWS JAPAN'S SEARCH
TO PROTECT SELF AGAINST FUTURE G

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